

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claims 23 and 24, and amend Claim 17 as shown below.

1.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said lens is a rod lens array.

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein a contact surface between said illuminating device and said guide is provided with sliding preventing means.

6.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 21, further comprising positioning means for determining a relative position between the transparent original, said guide, and said light source unit, and wherein, by the positioning of said positioning means, said light source unit can illuminate the entirety of at least any one image surface of among plural images included in the transparent original.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said positioning means include a convex/concave portion provided between said guide unit and said light source unit.

14.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus for reading a transparent original having perforation holes, in which the apparatus has a transparent original illuminating device, ~~[[a]]~~ the transparent original, a transparent original plate for receiving the transparent original there-against, an imaging lens, and a reading sensor ~~[[are]]~~ arranged in order, said imaging lens being equipped with a rod lens array which is to be focused on the transparent original disposed against said transparent original plate.

wherein said transparent original illuminating device is provided at its transparent original side with a plurality of urging portions disposed at positions corresponding to an out-of-image area of the transparent original ~~and protruded~~, said urging portions protruding less than a depth of field of said lens, above a light emitting surface, and wherein the transparent original is urged against said transparent original plate by said urging portions, surfaces of the urging portions abutting against the transparent original are larger than the perforation holes of the transparent original, and the urging portions urge at least parts of surrounding areas of successive perforation holes of the transparent original, respectively.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said plurality of urging portions are provided on an out, in a width direction of the transparent original, of a light emitting area of said transparent original illuminating device.

20. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein each of said plurality of urging portions is greater than a perforation hole of the transparent original.

21. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a transparent original guide rested on said transparent original plate and adapted to determine positions of the transparent original and said transparent original illuminating device.

22. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said transparent original guide is provided with a spacer member located at a position out of an image area of the transparent original and inside of said urging portions between the transparent original and said transparent original plate.

23.-24. (Cancelled)